

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 and General Gage's Judgment were the law of the land at the time of Governor Simcoe. Many of this governor's letters expound the principle of Indian independence. When did we lose the independence that we had then? How did the control over our own affairs pass out of our hands? We have bitter memories of that day in 1899 when a puppet government was introduced on our reservation. Some of our people still live who saw the arrest of our chiefs, the council presided over by armed government men, and the shooting down of one of our men when he demanded the release of our old chiefs. The bitterness engendered then has not been favorable to a ready acceptance of a law-from-outside. It is an established concept that governments should derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Let us recommend rather a plan whereby your national honour may be saved and at the same time have the co-operation and participation of the Indians. We realize that it would not be right for us to reject entirely a matter which may have for its purpose the betterment of the Indians but which has the unchangeable opposition of the majority of the Indians. We think these are more acceptable to our people.

1. Selection of the Indian Agent should be in the hands of the Indian and should be responsible to the Indians for the way he handles his office.

2. Recognize the Indian "Life Chiefs" supporters as being a legitimate political party on the reservation. By proving that they have popular support, they are to be returned to their former position.

3. Make a study of treaty obligations with a view to working out a program for fulfilling the letter and spirit of such treaties and for distribution of such information gained among the various agencies of the government, for their guidance in performing their duties among Indians.

We pray that the foregoing statement will find the honoured members of Parliament ready to respond with kindness and mercy, and above all, justice.

Life Chief Moses Thompson St. Regis,  
P.O. Glen Walter, Ont.

Caughnawaga Reserve,  
Province of Quebec,  
September 9, 1950.

To The Honourable Members of the Senate and House of Commons:

We, the Councillors and Life Chiefs of Caughnawaga, St. Regis and Oka Reserves duly assembled on this 9th day of September in the Year of Our Lord 1950, at a Grand Council to discuss the Merits of the proposed new "Indian Act" have found that a large number of the clauses are detrimental to the best interests of the Indians.

Since the old saying still holds good—"One bad apple in a barrel will eventually spoil all the rest if it is not removed in time"—we hereby register our protest that we cannot accept the bill, as it is an entirely negative one and apparently designed to govern an inferior and subordinate people and to keep them inferior and subordinate. It also tends to destroy the racial identity of the Indian and submerge it out of sight.

If this bill be passed in its present form, the new Indian Act will be the most bureaucratic and dictatorial legislation ever imposed on mankind.

The Honourable Mr. Walter Harris, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, stated June 21 last that the Indian policy is the integration of the Indians. We protest against this policy of Mr. Harris, as it is our desire to remain Indians today and in the future. We are not ashamed but proud of